HANDOUT from Rep. Moolenaar

National Academy of Sciences
Review of EPA's Exposure and Human Health Assessment of TCDD and Related Compounds

Project Begins

- November 2004, apparently at the request of the federal Interagency Working Group on Dioxin. The working Group with representatives from EPA, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health and Human Services asked NAS to review EPA's 2003 DRAFT Reassessment of the Risks of Dioxin and Dioxin-like Compounds.

Project Scope

- Assess whether EPA's risk estimates are scientifically robust and if the reassessment presents a clear delineation of the substantial uncertainties and variability.
- The review will focus on EPA's:
  - Risk assessment modeling assumptions
  - Quantitative analysis of uncertainty in the statistical assessment of risk
  - Selection of studies forming the basis of the risk assessment, and
  - Gaps in scientific knowledge of the risks from exposure to dioxin.
- The Panel will also address:
  - Scientific evidence for classifying dioxin as a human carcinogen, and
  - Validity of the statistical model used to quantify the human cancer risk.
- The Panel will also issue a scientific judgment on the use of *toxicity equivalence factors* to assess the risk of the complex mixture of compounds generally referred to as *dioxin*.
- The Panel is also expected to comment on the presentation of uncertainty in the risk assessment, its impact on the risk numbers, and it understanding by decision makers.

About NAS

The Academies advise the nation's leaders on science and technology issues that impact public policy decisions. Reviews by the Academies are conducted outside the framework of government to garner independent advice on science and technology questions. Committees of the experts in science and engineering are called on to volunteer their time on specific projects.

National Academy of Sciences
Review of EPA's Exposure and Human Health Assessment of TCDD and Related Compounds

Panel Membership

Dr. David Eaton, Chair	University of Washington
Dr. Dennis Bier	Baylor College of Medicine
Dr. Joshua Cohen	Harvard University
Dr. Michael Dennison	University of California, Davis
Dr. Richard DiGiulio	Duke University
Dr. Norbert Kaminski	Michigan State University
Dr. Nancy Kim	NY State Department of Health
Dr. Antoine Keng Djien Liem	European Food Safety Authority
Dr. Thomas McKone	University of California, Berkeley
Dr. Malcolm Pike	University of Southern California
Dr. Alvaro Puga	University of Cincinnati
Dr. Andrew Renwick	University of Southampton
Dr. David Savitz	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Dr. Allen Silverstone	State University of New York
Dr. Paul Terranova	University of Kansas
Dr. Kimberly Thompson	Harvard School of Public Health
Dr. Gary Williams	New York Medical College
Dr. Yilang Zhu	University of South Florida

About the NAS

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is an honorific society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research, dedicated to the furtherance of science and technology and to their use for the general welfare.

The NAS was signed into being by President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1863, at the height of the Civil War. As mandated in its Act of Incorporation, the NAS has, since 1863, served to "investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art" whenever called upon to do so by any department of the government. Scientific issues would become even more contentious and complex in the years following the war. To keep pace with the growing roles that science and technology would play in public life, the institution that was founded in 1863 eventually expanded to include the National Research Council in 1916, the National Academy of Engineering in 1964, and the Institute of Medicine in 1970. Collectively, the four organizations are known as the National Academies.

Since 1863, the nation's leaders have often turned to the National Academies for advice on the scientific and technological issues that frequently pervade policy decisions. Most of the institution's science policy and technical work is conducted by its operating arm, the National Research Council, created expressly for this purpose. These non-profit organizations provide a public service by working outside the framework of government to ensure independent advice on matters of science, technology, and medicine. They enlist committees of the nation's top scientists, engineers, and other experts, all of whom volunteer their time to study specific concerns. The results of their deliberations have inspired some of America's most significant and lasting efforts to improve the health, education, and welfare of the population. The Academy's service to government has become so essential that Congress and the White House have issued legislation and executive orders over the years that reaffirm its unique role.

The Academy membership is comprised of approximately 2,000 members and 350 foreign associates, of whom more than 200 have won Nobel Prizes. Members and foreign associates of the Academy are elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research; election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors that can be accorded a scientist or engineer.The Academy is governed by a Council comprised of twelve members (councilors) and five officers, elected from among the Academy membership. Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone is the president of the National Academy of Sciences.

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500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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